

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02307 290847Z
ACTION EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /004 W
-----001686 292210Z /12-R
R 281532Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6091

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2307

FOR EUR/EE SCHMIDT FROM FROWICK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

REF.: STATE 213678

1. KRAL AFFAIR. WE BELIEVE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE DEFINITELY GOING TO GET WORSE BEFORE THEY GET BETTER AS A RESULT OF THE KRAL VISA REFUSAL, BUT WE THINK WASHINGTON IS DOING EXACTLY THE RIGHT THING. I RAISE THE ISSUE SIMPLY TO ALERT ALL CONCERNED THAT WE COULD HAVE INCREASED TROUBLE ON ALL FRONTS. WHILE WE FEEL SURE THE VISA REFUSAL WILL STAND, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FINAL WORD ON THE CASE ASAP.

2. AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. I THINK OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AUGUST 25 MAY HAVE BEEN DELIBERATELY CUT. I WAS TRYING TO INFORM YOU THAT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED AN ESTIMATE FROM THE PEUGEOT DEALER AT NUERNBERG, AUTOHAUS MUNZEL GMBH., INDICATING REPAIRS ON THE AMBASSADOR'S CAR WILL AMOUNT TO 4902 DEUTSCH-MARKS. THE REASON WHY WE SENT THE CAR THERE IS SIMPLY THAT IT IS THE CLOSEST PEUGEOT DEALER AVAILABLE TO US. THERE IS NONE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. ANY AUTO REPAIR FIRM HERE WOULD HAVE NO EXPERTISE ON PEUGEOTS, WOULD HAVE TO IMPORT PARTS, AND WOULD MOST LIKELY REPAIR THE
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VEHICLE IN A JERRY-BUILT MANNER. WE THINK ALL THIS WOULD LEAD TO SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CAR'S FUTURE SAFETY. WE WOULD APPRECIATE JIM GLENN'S CALLING CLEMENTSS WITH THIS INFORMATION AND LETTING US KNOW ASAP WHAT CLEMENTS POSITION IS ON THIS MATTER. UNFORTUNATELY, WE WILL PROBABLY NEVER GET AN UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK INSURANCE REPS THAT THEY WILL PAY IN

HARD CURRENCY FOR REPAIRS TO BE DONE IN THE FRG.

3. SPRAVA SLUZEK RENTALS. WE HAVE RECEIVED OUR FIRST NOTICES OF RENTAL INCREASES. THEY AVERAGE APPROXIMATELY 80 PER CENT, WITH THE NEWLY REMODELED PAO APARTMENT GOING UP 48 PER CENT, APAO APT. 80 PER CENT, ASST. MILATT 82 PER CENT AND TWO TEACHERS' APTS. 100 PER CENT. WE WILL HAVE SEVERAL MORE INCREASES EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 31.

4. PROTOCOL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE A SITREP FROM PROTOCOL ON THE D.C. ZONING PROBLEM AFFECTING THE CZECHOSLOVAKS' SCHOOL. ANYTHING PROTOCOL MAY HAVE TO SAY ON OUR FUTURE NORTH KOREAN DEAN WOULD ALSO BE WELCOME.

5. CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE. PERSONALLY, I VERY MUCH REGRET THE WAY WE CAME OUT OF THIS ISSUE. IT JUST DOES NOT FIGURE TO ME THAT WITH THE ADMINISTRATION CHAMPIONING PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM, THE DEPARTMENT WOULD REMAIN SILENT ON THE CZECHOSLOVAK CASE -- THE MOST BLATANT EXAMPLE OF A DENIAL OF FREEDOM IN EUROPE TODAY. BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAGUE02307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0119
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780817/aaaaaoeq.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0d2c635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 213678
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1602007
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL
TAGS: OGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0d2c635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014